Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus of named entities included in a document comprising:

a document weight calculation section which defines a mutual relevance among a plurality of documents, the documents including the named entities as an object to judge a significance, the documents being managed under at least one tree structure, the mutual relevance among the plurality of documents being based on distance among the documents which is defined based on number of nodes or branches among the documents of the tree structure, and ~~calculating~~ which calculates weight values of said each document based on the mutual relevance whereby the documents having less mutual ~~relation~~ relevance are given ~~the~~ a higher weight value; ~~and~~

an evaluation value calculation section calculating an evaluation value of said named entities by carrying out a calculation process using the weight value of said each document;

wherein the significance of the named entities is judged based on the evaluation value where the named entities having a greater evaluation value are given a higher significance; and

an output section outputting the named entities based on the result of the judged significance.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein

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said document weight calculation section ~~gradually~~ increases ~~or decreases~~ the weight value of a first document and a second document corresponding to <u>an increment of</u> the number of <u>the</u> nodes of the tree structure common to the first document and the second document.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim ~~2~~ <u>1</u>, wherein said document weight calculation section <u>gradually</u> increases ~~or decreases~~ the weight value of a first document and a second document corresponding to <u>an increment of</u> the number of <u>the</u> branches of the tree structure existing between the first document and the second document.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim ~~2~~ <u>1</u>, wherein if a first document and a second document are managed under different trees, said document weight calculation section maximizes the weight value of the first document and the second document.

Claims 6-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a document collection section collecting said plurality of document; and

a document relevance storage section storing the mutual relevance of the documents collected by said document collection section.

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Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method of named entities included in a document comprising:

a document weight calculation process defining a mutual relevance among a plurality of documents, the documents including the named entities as an object to judge a significance, the documents being managed under at least one tree structure, the mutual relevance among the plurality of documents is based on distance among the documents which is defined based on the number of the nodes or braches among the documents of the tree structure, and calculating weight values of said each document based on the mutual relevance whereby the documents having less mutual relation relevance are given the a higher weight value;

an evaluation value calculation process calculating an evaluation value of said named entities by carrying out a calculation process using the weight value of said each document; and

a significance judge process judging a significance of the named entities based on the evaluation value where the named entities having a greater evaluation value are given a higher significance; and

an output process outputting the named entities based on the result of the judged significance.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 12 11, wherein the weight value of a first document and a second document is gradually

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increased ~~or decreased~~ corresponding to <u>an increment of</u> the number of <u>the</u> nodes of the

tree structure common to the first document and the second document.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method claimed in claim ~~12~~ <u>11</u>, wherein

the weight value of a first document and a second document is increased <u>gradually</u>

increased ~~or decreased~~ corresponding to <u>an increment of</u> the number of <u>the</u> branches of

the tree structure existing between the first document and the second document.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim ~~12~~ <u>11</u>,

wherein if a first document and a second document are managed under different trees, the

weight value of the first document and the second document is maximized.

Claims 16-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 11 further

comprising a document collection process collecting said plurality of document; and

a document relevance storage process storing the mutual relevance of the

documents collected in said document collection process,

wherein said document collection process and said document relevance storage

process are carried out at least before said document weight calculation process.

Claim 21 (New): An evaluation apparatus of named entities included in a document

comprising:

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a document weight calculation section which defines a mutual relevance among a plurality of documents, the documents including the named entities as an object to judge a significance, and the mutual relevance among the plurality of documents being based on distance among the documents which is defined based on a hierarchical number of a reference relation between the respective documents, and calculating weight values of said each document based on the mutual relevance whereby the documents having less mutual relevance are given a higher weight value;

an evaluation value calculation section calculating an evaluation value of said named entities by carrying out a calculation process using the weight value of said each document;

wherein the significance of the named entities is judged based on the evaluation value where the named entities having a greater evaluation value are given a higher significance; and

an output section outputting the named entities based on the result of the judged significance.

22. (New) An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said document weight calculation section decreases the weight value of a first document and a second document corresponding to existing a third document which directly or indirectly refers to both of the first document and the second document.

23. (New) An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said document weight calculation section decreases the weight value of a first document and a second

document when the first document directly or indirectly refers to the second document.

24. (New) An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein if there is no other document referring to a first document, said document weight calculation section maximizes the weight value of the first document.

25. (New) An evaluation method of named entities included in a document comprising:

a document weight calculation process defining a mutual relevance among a plurality of documents, the documents including the named entities as an object to judge a significance, and the mutual relevance among the plurality of documents being based on distance among the documents which is defined based on a hierarchical number of a reference relation between said respective documents, and calculating weight values of said each document based on the mutual relevance whereby the documents having less mutual relevance are given a higher weight value;

an evaluation value calculation process calculating an evaluation value of said named entities by carrying out a calculation process using the weight value of said each document;

a significance judge process judging a significance of the named entities based on the evaluation value where the named entities having a greater evaluation value are given a higher significance; and

an output process outputting the named entities based on the result of the judged significance.

26. (New) An evaluation method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the weight value of a first document and a second document is decreased corresponding to existing a third document which directly or indirectly refers to both of the first document and the second document.

27. (New) An evaluation method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the weight value of a first document and a second document is decreased when the first document directly or indirectly refers to the second document.

28. (New) An evaluation method as claimed in claim 25, wherein if there is no other document referring to a first document, the weight value of the first document becomes maximum.